

MEDICAL EXAMINER ASKS LARGER STAFF

**Dr. Norris Says 15 to 20 Per
Cent. of City Deaths Go to
His Department.**

REQUESTS MORE MORGUES

**Each Borough Should Have One,
He Says in Report Covering
Ten Years of Work.**

From 15 to 20 per cent. of all the deaths in New York City come within the jurisdiction of the Medical Examiner's office, according to the report of Dr. Charles Norris, Chief Medical Examiner, to the Committee on Public Health Relations, which was made public yesterday. Dr. Norris recommends a larger chemical laboratory staff to handle the growing number of investigations, and further recommends a morgue for each borough. His report says:

"In 1926 there were in New York City 76,182 deaths, and of these 13,610 were Medical Examiner's cases. About 2,000 autopsies were performed in the Manhattan Mortuary alone."

The report further shows that "despite handicaps of insufficient equipment and inadequate personnel," the work of the Chief Medical Examiner has justified the expectations of those who helped to get the legislation substituting the Medical Examiner for the Coroner. The report then says:

"At the close of the ten years of existence of the office, it is desirable to emphasize the needs of the department. In order to make possible an even greater efficiency of this important public office. The primary need is provision for an adequate chemical laboratory staff. Immediate toxicological examinations are necessary not only in many cases of homicide, but in cases of death from accident as well as sudden deaths.

"There is need of a morgue in every borough of the city. At the present time there are only three municipal morgues—one in Manhattan at Bellevue Hospital, one in Brooklyn at Kings County Hospital and one in the Bronx at Fordham Hospital.

"The department should be provided with cars, in view of the many calls upon the medical examiners and the long distances they often must travel, particularly in the outlying districts. The salaries of the medical staff need readjustments, in view of the important and responsible duties devolving upon them and in view of the fact that the ordinary civil service hours do not apply to them, as they are on call at all times. The entire budget of the Chief Medical Examiner, including clerical help, telephone service and supplies, amounts annually to \$155,001, or a little over \$11 per case."

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